

METROPOLIS



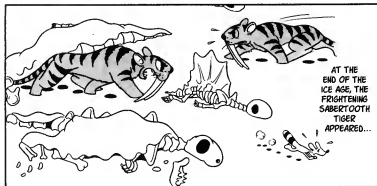
From the
Creator of
ASTRO BOY®

OSAMU TEZUKA

METROPOLIS

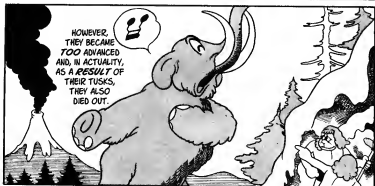








... AND THE
EVEN MORE
FEARFUL
MAMMOTH,
WITH TUSKS
TWICE THE
SIZE OF
PRESENT-DAY
ELEPHANTS'!

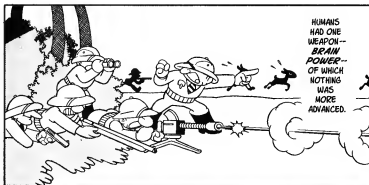


HOWEVER,
THEY BECAME
TOO ADVANCED
AND, IN ACTUALITY,
AS A **RESULT** OF
THEIR TUSKS,
THEY ALSO
DIED OUT.



IN THEIR
PLACE,
ANIMALS
TODAY
CALLED
HUMAN'S
BEGAN TO
CONQUER
THE LAND.

TENS OF
THOUSANDS
OF YEARS
PASSED...





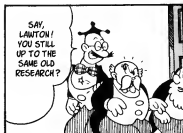
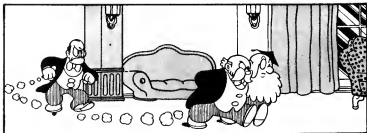
SUMMER, 19XX

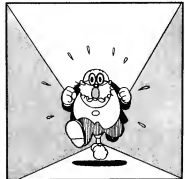
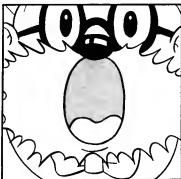
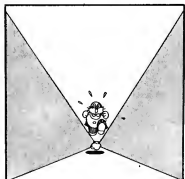
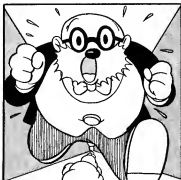


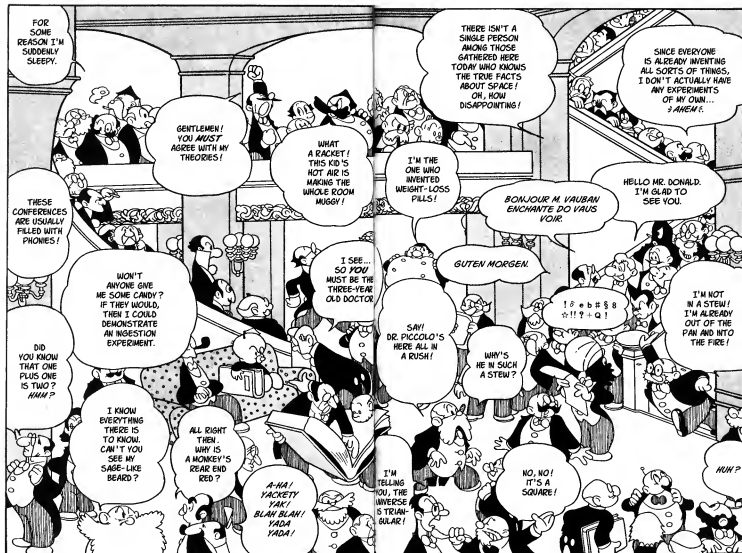












FOR
SOME
REASON I'M
SUDDENLY
SLEEPY.

GENTLEMEN!
YOU MUST
AGREE WITH MY
THEORIES!

WHAT
A RACKET!
THIS KID IS
MAKING THE
WHOLE ROOM
MUGGY!

I'M THE
ONE WHO
INVENTED
WEIGHT-LOSS
PILLS!

THERE ISN'T A
SINGLE PERSON
AMONG THOSE
GATHERED HERE
TODAY WHO KNOWS
THE TRUE FACTS
ABOUT SPACE!
OH, HOW
DISAPPOINTING!

SINCE EVERYONE
IS ALREADY INVENTING
ALL SORTS OF THINGS,
I DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE
ANY EXPERIMENTS
OF MY OWN...
3 AREN'T I.

HELLO MR. DONALD.
I'M GLAD TO
SEE YOU.

BONJOUR M. VAUBAN
ENCHANTE DO VAUS
VOIR.

GUTEN MORGEN.

I SEE...
SO YOU
MUST BE THE
THREE-YEAR
OLD DOCTOR

SAV!
DR. PICCOLO'S
HERE ALL IN
A RUSH!

WHY'S
HE IN SUCH
A STEW?

I'M NOT
IN A STEW!
I'M ALREADY
OUT OF THE
PAN AND INTO
THE FIRE!

NO, NO!
IT'S A
SQUARE!

HUH?

I'M
TELLING
YOU, THE
UNIVERSE
IS TRIAN-
GULAR!

A-HA!
YACKETY
YAK!
BLAH BLAH!
YADA
YADA!

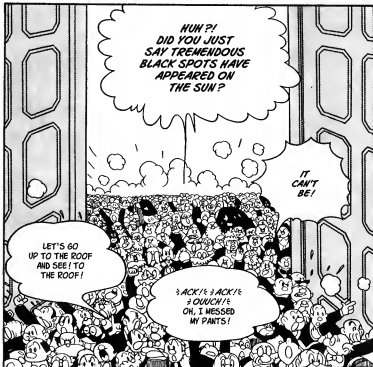
ALL RIGHT
THEN. WHY IS
A MONKEY'S
REAR END
RED?

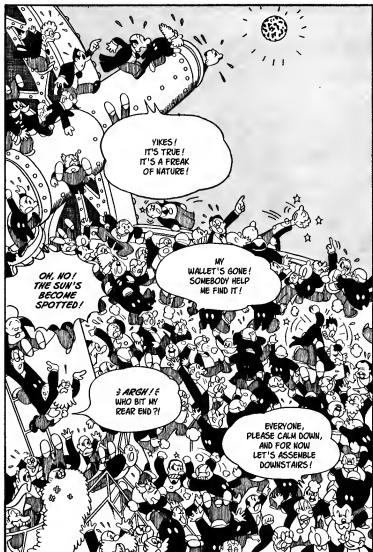
I KNOW
EVERYTHING
THERE IS
TO KNOW.
CAN'T YOU
SEE MY
SAGE-LIKE
BEARD?

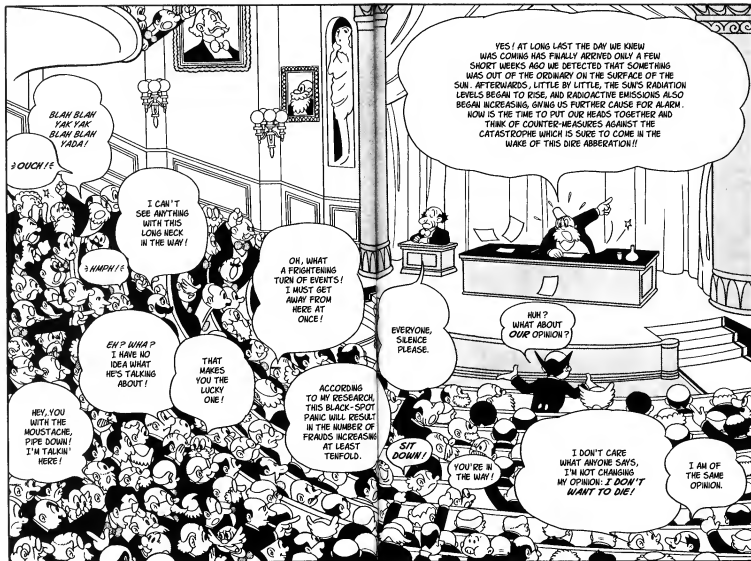
DID
YOU KNOW
THAT ONE
PLUS ONE
IS TWO?
HMM?

WOULDN'T
ANYONE GIVE
ME SOME CANDY?
IF THEY WOULD,
THEN I COULD
DEMONSTRATE
AN INGESTION
EXPERIMENT.

THESE
CONFERENCES
ARE USUALLY
FILLED WITH
PHONIES!







YES! AT LONG LAST THE DAY WE KNEW WAS COMING HAS FINALLY ARRIVED ONLY A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO WE DETECTED THAT SOMETHING WAS OUT OF THE ORDINARY ON THE SURFACE OF THE SUN. AFTERWARDS, LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE SUN'S RADIATION LEVELS BEGAN TO RISE, AND RADIOACTIVE EMISSIONS ALSO BEGAN INCREASING, GIVING US FURTHER CAUSE FOR ALARM. NOW IS THE TIME TO PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER AND THINK OF COUNTER-MEASURES AGAINST THE CATASTROPHE WHICH IS SURE TO COME IN THE WAKE OF THIS DIRE ABERRATION!!

BLAH BLAH
YAK YAK
BLAH BLAH
YADA!

OUCH! E

I CAN'T
SEE ANYTHING
WITH THIS
LONG NECK
IN THE WAY!

HMPH! E

OH, WHAT
A FRIGHTENING
TURN OF EVENTS!
I MUST GET
AWAY FROM
HERE AT
ONCE!

EH? WHA?
I HAVE NO
IDEA WHAT
HE'S TALKING
ABOUT!

THAT
MAKES
YOU THE
LUCKY
ONE!

HEY, YOU
WITH THE
MOUSTACHE,
PIPE DOWN!
I'M TALKIN'
HERE!

ACCORDING
TO MY RESEARCH,
THIS BLACK-SPOT
PANIC WILL RESULT
IN THE NUMBER OF
FRAUDS INCREASING
AT LEAST
TENFOLD.

EVERYONE,
SILENCE.
PLEASE.

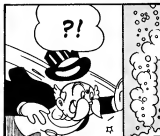
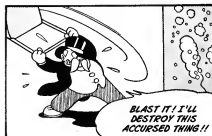
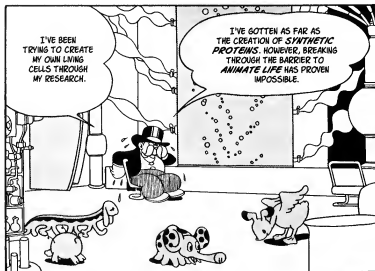
HUH?
WHAT ABOUT
OUR OPINION?

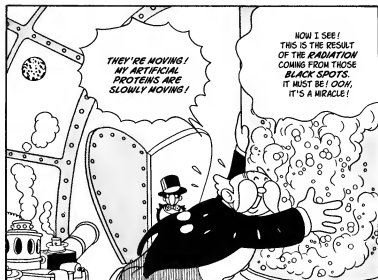
SIT
DOWN!

YOU'RE IN
THE WAY!

I DON'T CARE
WHAT ANYONE SAYS,
I'M NOT CHANGING
MY OPINION: I DON'T
WANT TO DIE!

I AM OF
THE SAME
OPINION.





THEY'RE MOVING!
MY ARTIFICIAL
PROTEINS ARE
SLOWLY MOVING!

NOW I SEE!
THIS IS THE RESULT
OF THE RADIATION
COMING FROM THOSE
BLACK SPOTS.
IT MUST BE! OOH,
IT'S A MIRACLE!



HEH HEH HEH.
CONGRATULATIONS,
DR. LAWTON.

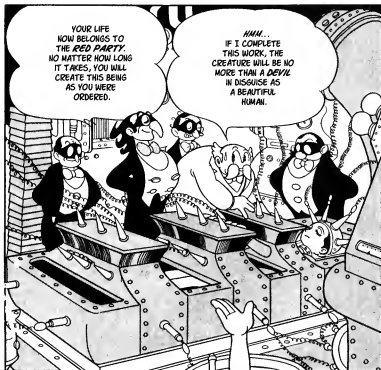
YIPE!
WHO ARE
YOU?!

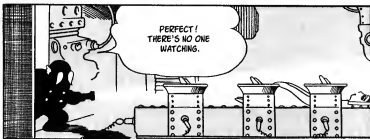


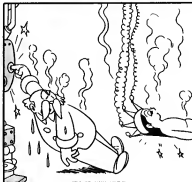
UH-UH-UH...
DUKE RED,
I PRESUME...?

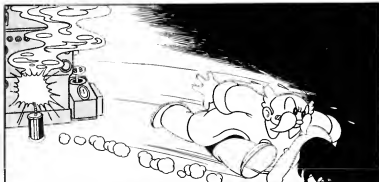
WELL THEN,
Y-YOU'VE COME TO
STEAL MY RESEARCH,
HAVEN'T YOU?

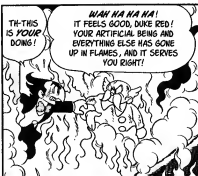
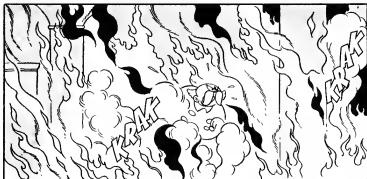






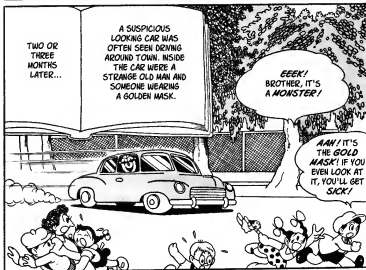








DR. LAWTON'S MANSION
WAS BURNED TO THE GROUND.
AS FOR THE WHEREABOUTS
OF DR. LAWTON HIMSELF AND
THE ARTIFICIAL BEING...



TWO OR
THREE
MONTHS
LATER...

A SUSPICIOUS
LOOKING CAR WAS
OFTEN SEEN DRIVING
AROUND TOWN. INSIDE
THE CAR WERE A
STRANGE OLD MAN AND
SOMEONE WEARING
A GOLDEN MASK.

EEK!
BROTHER, IT'S
A MONSTER!

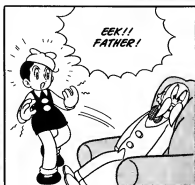
AAH! IT'S
THE GOLD
MASK! IF YOU
EVEN LOOK AT
IT, YOU'LL GET
SICK!

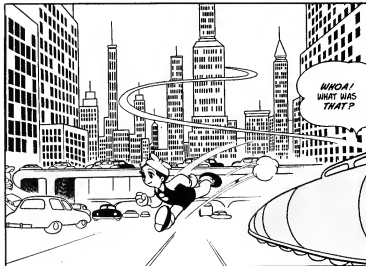


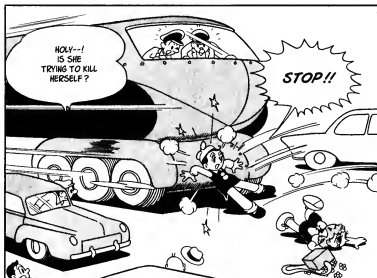
IT'S ALL
RIGHT NOW.
YOU CAN TAKE
YOUR MASK
OFF.

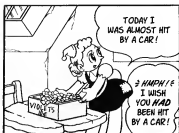
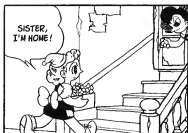


WELCOME
HOME, SIR.

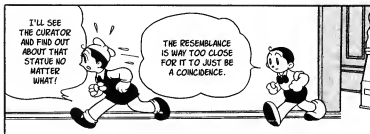


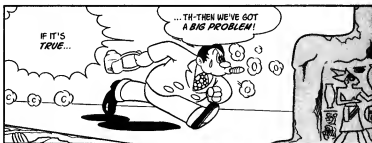
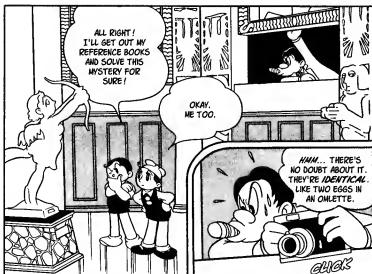




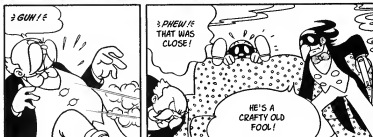




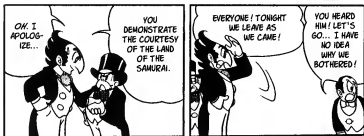
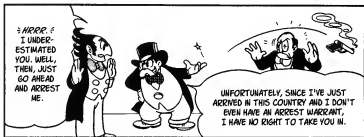


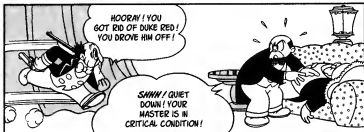


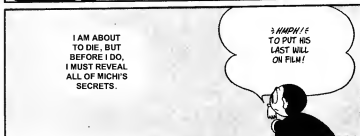
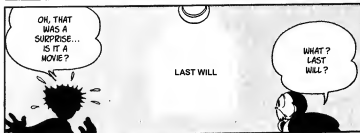
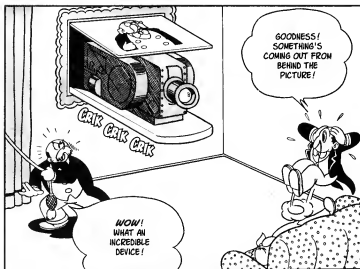












"IT ALL
BEGAN WHEN
I FIRST
SUCCESSFULLY
CREATED
SYNTHETIC
CELLS..."



"A SUSPICIOUS
MAN BY THE
NAME OF DUKE
RED ORDERED
ME TO CREATE
AN ARTIFICIAL
BEING..."



"AS I WAS
MAKING THE
ARTIFICIAL
BEING, I
GRADUALLY
BEGAN TO
REALIZE DUKE
RED'S EVIL
SCHEMES."



"FINALLY
ONE NIGHT I
RESOLVED TO
BLOW UP THE
LAB WITH A
BOMB, AND
THEN I MADE
OFF WITH THE
ARTIFICIAL
BEING!"



"AFTERWARDS
I HID IT IN THE
HOLLOW OF A
TREE IN THE
REAR GARDENS
AND WENT
BACK INSIDE.
THE HOUSE
HAD SUDDENLY
COMBUSTED
AND WAS
CRUMBLING."



"I LIED AND
TOLD DUKE
RED THAT THE
ARTIFICIAL BEING
HAD BEEN
COMPLETELY
INCINERATED."

"AFTER
THE HOUSE
HAD BEEN
REDUCED TO
ASH, I QUIETLY
GOT THE
ARTIFICIAL BEING
OUT FROM
THE HOLLOW.
IT LOOKED
PUZZLED BY ITS
SURROUNDINGS."



"THANKS TO
MY FRIEND
DR. BELL, I
WAS ABLE
TO BUILD A
NEW HOUSE
AND I BEGAN
LIVING WITH
THE ARTIFICIAL
BEING. WE'RE
COMING UP TO
THE PRESENT
NOW..."

"I CALLED THIS ARTIFICIAL BEING, WHICH WAS NEITHER A MAN NOR A WOMAN, 'ANCHI,' A NAME WHICH WAS NEITHER MALE NOR FEMALE."



"MICHİ BELIEVES I AM ACTUALLY HER FATHER. OF COURSE, HE HAS NO IDEA ABOUT HIS SUPER-HUMAN ABILITIES."

"FOR THE MOST PART, MICHİ DOES NOT GO OUTSIDE. WHEN HE DOES, I MAKE HIM RIDE IN THE CAR AND EVEN THEN ONLY WHEN HE'S WEARING A MASK."



"THE OTHER CHILDREN CALL HIM A MONSTER AND RUN AWAY. MICHİ ALWAYS SEEMS VERY SAD..."



OHH, I ONLY WANTED TO
RAISE MICHİ TO BE A KIND
AND GENTLE PERSON, NOT A
SUPER-BEING. TO THE PERSON
WATCHING THIS MOVIE AFTER
I'VE DIED, PLEASE TAKE
GOOD CARE OF HIM ...

SO
THAT'S IT.
IT ALL HAPPENED
BECAUSE MASTER
MICHİ WAS AN
ARTIFICIAL
BEING.

MR. LAWTON,
PLEASE DON'T
WORRY. WE WILL
PROTECT MICHİ
AT ALL COSTS!

THANK YOU.
A BOOK DETAILING
ALL THE SECRETS
OF MICHİ'S
ANATOMY IS
INSIDE THE SOFA
I'M ON.



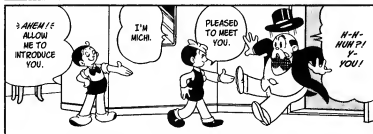
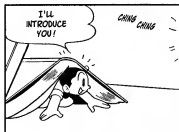
A-HA!
THIS IS
IT!

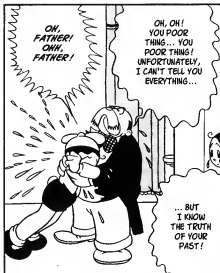


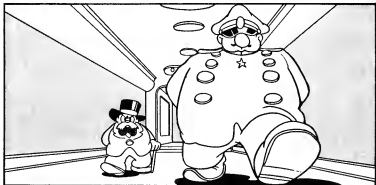
ARE MICHİ'S
SUPER-HUMAN
ABILITIES
WRITTEN ABOUT
IN THERE?

THE IDEA IS
SO FRIGHTENING I
CAN'T READ IT.

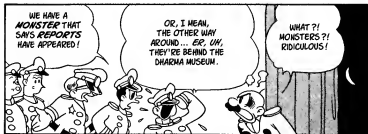




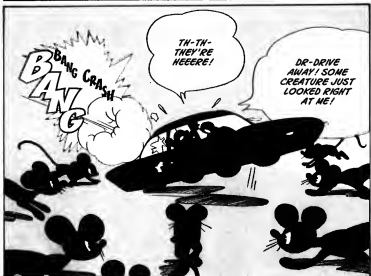


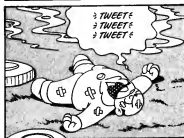
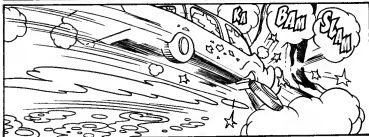
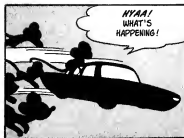


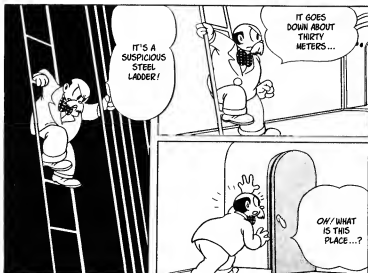
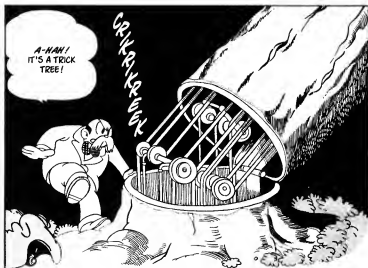


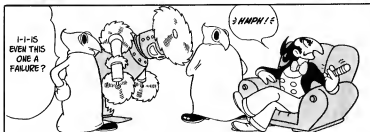
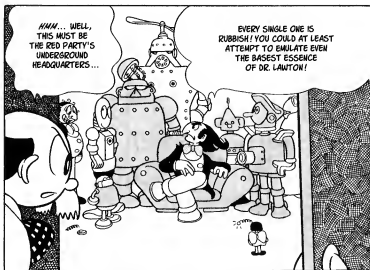


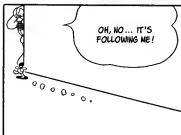
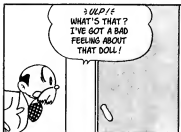


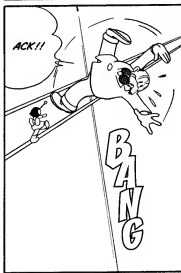
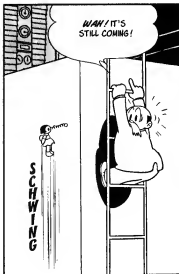


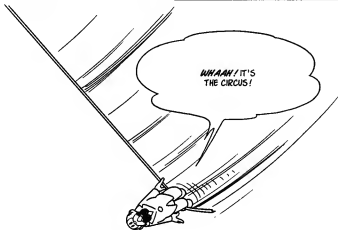
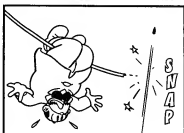
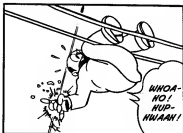
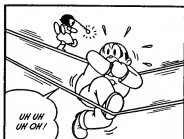


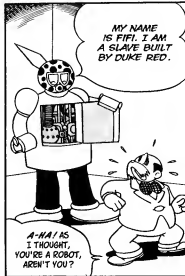
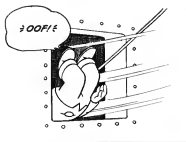


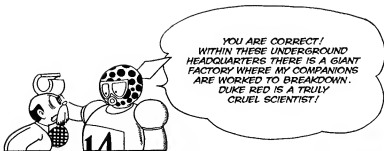


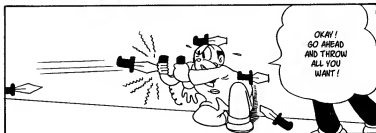
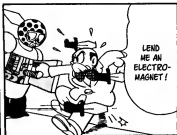
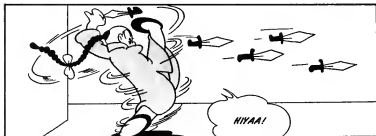
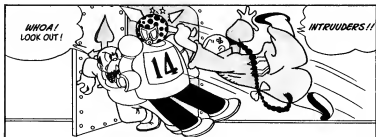


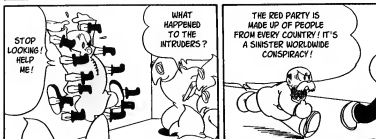
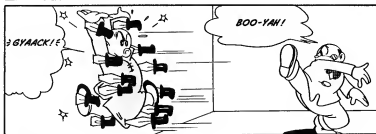


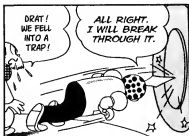
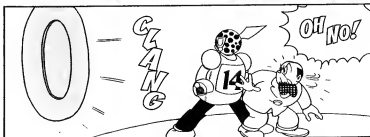




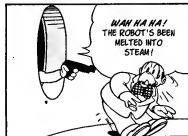
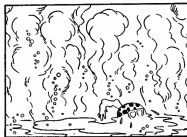


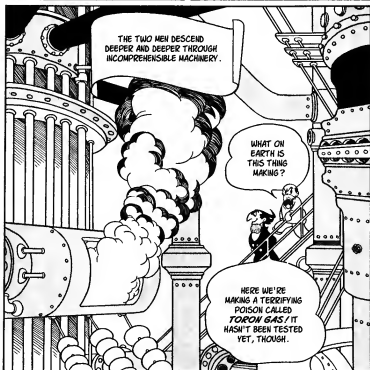
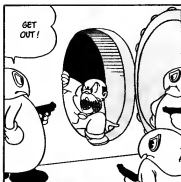








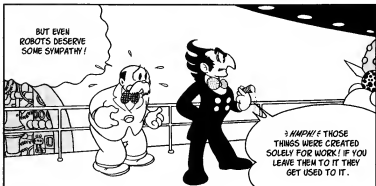
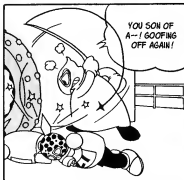
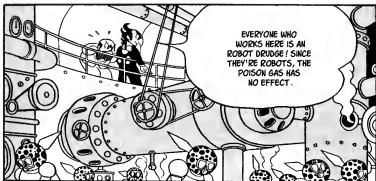


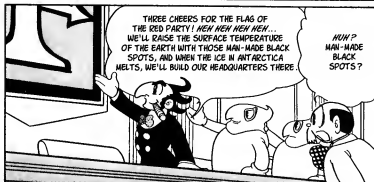
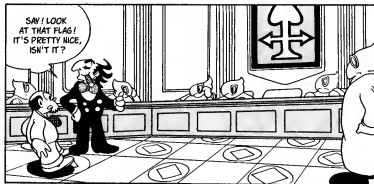
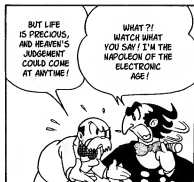


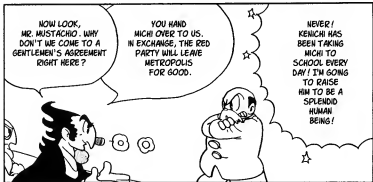
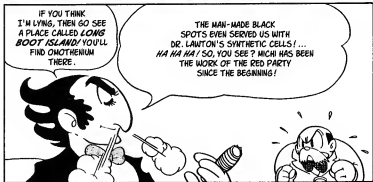
THE TWO MEN DESCEND
DEEPER AND DEEPER THROUGH
INCOMPREHENSIBLE MACHINERY.

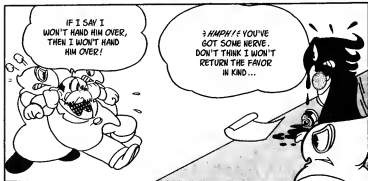
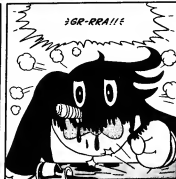
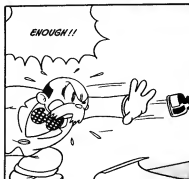
WHAT ON
EARTH IS
THIS THING
MAKING?

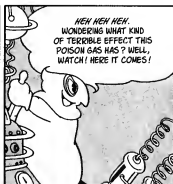
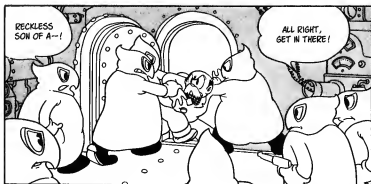
HERE WE'RE
MAKING A TERRIFYING
POISON CALLED
TORON GAS / IT
HASN'T BEEN TESTED
YET, THOUGH.





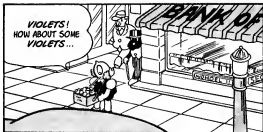






TWO
OR
THREE
DAYS
LATER...

VIOLETS!
HOW ABOUT SOME
VIOLETS...



MISTER,
PLEASE
BUY SOME
VIOLETS!

WHY, YOU'RE
AN ADMIRABLE
CHILD. TELL ME,
WHERE IS YOUR
HOUSE?



YOU'RE
THE SISTER,
AREN'T
YOU?

I HAVE
SOMETHING TO
TALK TO YOU
ABOUT...



I'VE
GOT
SOME
LEFT
OVER
TODAY,
TOO!

SISTER'S
GOING TO
BE ANGRY
AGAIN!



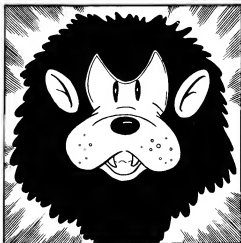
WELCOME
HOME!





THIS IS
LITTLE
JUNIOR
HIGH
SCHOOL,
WHERE
KENICHI
GOES TO
SCHOOL.

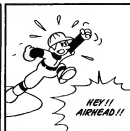


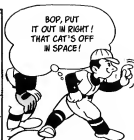


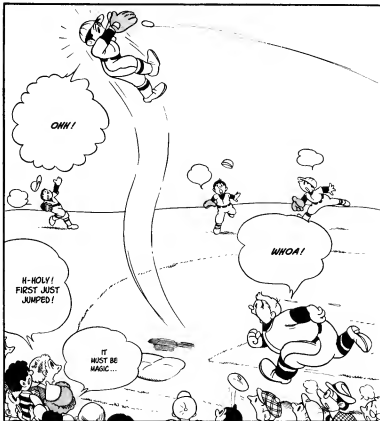


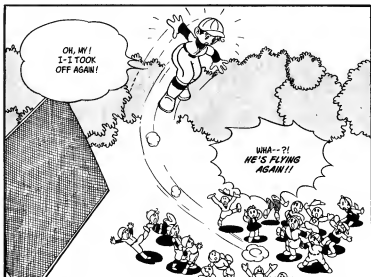
MICHI IS NEITHER HUMAN NOR ANIMAL NOR PLANT NOR MINERAL. MADE ENTIRELY OF SYNTHETIC CELLS, MICHI, TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IS AN ARTIFICIAL BEING. DUE TO VARIOUS SECRET APPARATII IMPLANTED IN THE BODY, MICHI EXHIBITS NUMEROUS TEN-THOUSAND HORSEPOWER SUPERHUMAN ABILITIES, MAKING HIM WITHOUT EQUAL ON EARTH. MICHI'S LUNGS EXHIBIT A HELIUM GAS ANALYSIS REACTION SUCH THAT IF HE BREATHEES IN AS DEEPLY AS POSSIBLE, HE WILL FLOAT UP INTO THE AIR. THE EARS ACT LIKE FISH GILLS AND ARE ABLE TO CONTINUE BREATHING FREELY EVEN UNDER WATER. THERE IS A BUTTON IN THE THROAT, WHICH IF PUSHED WILL CHANGE MICHI TO EITHER MALE OR FEMALE FORM...

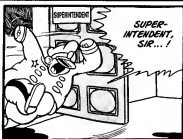


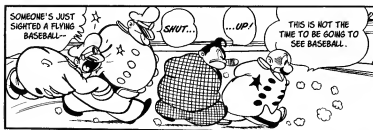










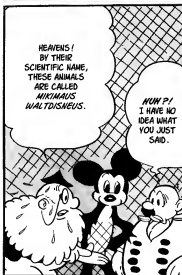


THESE THINGS
APPEARED LAST
NIGHT BEHIND THE
DHARMA MUSEUM.
THEY'RE MONSTERS!



HEAVENS!
BY THEIR
SCIENTIFIC NAME,
THESE ANIMALS
ARE CALLED
MIKIMAUUS
WALDISNEUS.

HUH?!
I HAVE NO
IDEA WHAT
YOU JUST
SAID.



TO PUT IT SIMPLY,
THEY'RE *RATS*.

WHY DIDN'T
YOU SAY
THAT TO BEGIN
WITH?!



EXCEPT IF THEY'RE RATS,
HOW COME THESE ONES ARE
SO HUGE...?!



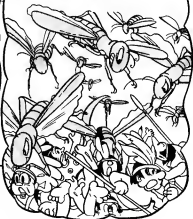
"THAT'S
JUST IT ...
THIS IS
NOT AN
OCCURRENCE
EXCLUSIVE
TO
METROPOLIS
CITY!"



"FOR INSTANCE,
IN INDIA, PEOPLE
AND HORSES HAVE BEEN
FALLING INTO ANT-LION
TRAPS FIVE METERS
IN DIAMETER."



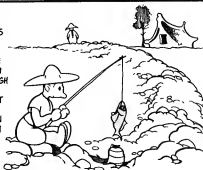
"IN COLORADO,
MAN-EATING GRASSHOPPERS
APPEARED AND WIPED
OUT THE INDIANS ..."



"IN JAPAN,
PUMPKINS GROWN
ON ROOFTOPS
CRUSHED THE HOUSES
BENEATH THEM,
SO NOW PEOPLE
HOLLOW OUT
THE PUMPKINS
AND MAKE HOMES
OUT OF THEM."



"IN CHINA,
EARTHWORMS
UP TO 20
KILOMETERS
LONG THRIVE
AND BURROW
HOLES THROUGH
FARMERS'
FIELDS, SO IT
IS NOW
THE FASHION
TO USE FISH
AS BAIT TO
FISH FOR
WORMS."

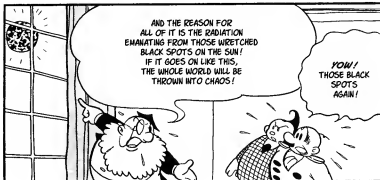


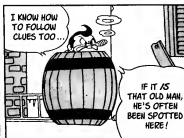
LOWER PLANTS
AND ANIMALS WITH
SUPERIOR BREEDING
POWER ALL OVER THE
WORLD HAVE BEEN
BECOMING BIGGER
AND BIGGER IN
THIS MANNER!

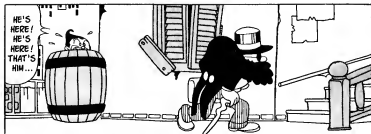


AND THE REASON FOR
ALL OF IT IS THE RADIATION
EMANATING FROM THOSE WRETCHED
BLACK SPOTS ON THE SUN!
IF IT GOES ON LIKE THIS,
THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE
THROWN INTO CHAOS!

YOW!
THOSE BLACK
SPOTS
AGAIN!





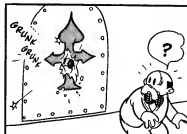
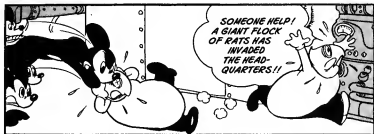


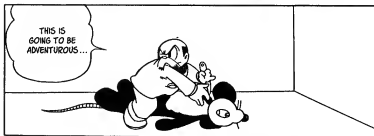
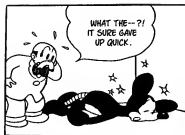


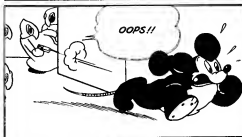
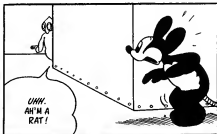
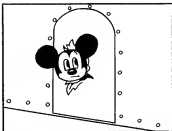


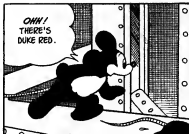


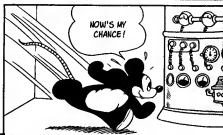
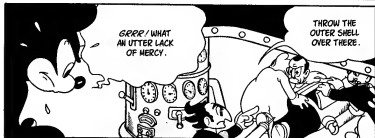
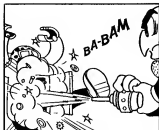
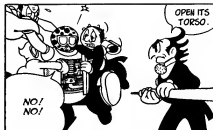
MEANWHILE
IN THE
UNDERGROUND
HEADQUARTERS,
SOMETHING
WAS ABOUT
TO HAPPEN ...

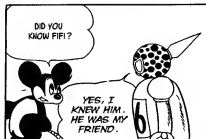
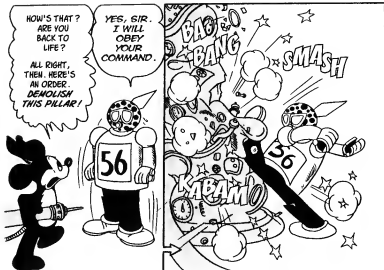


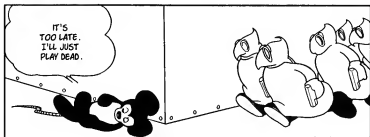
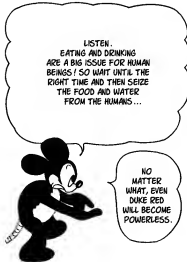


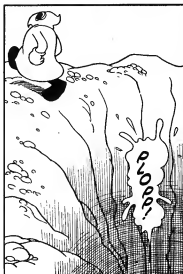
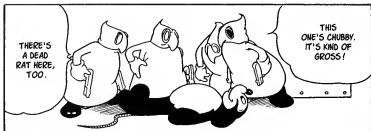


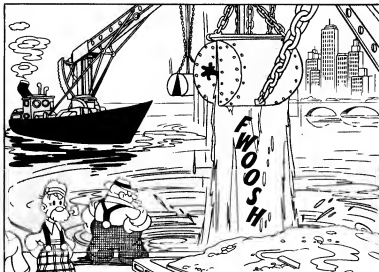


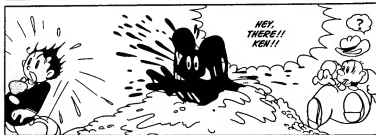
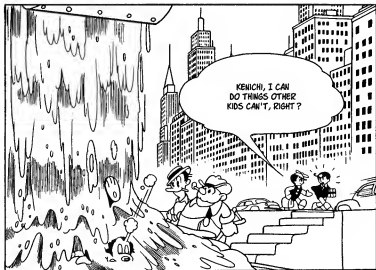


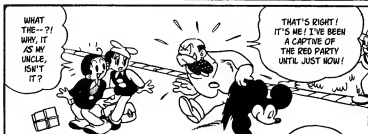
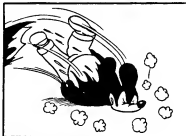
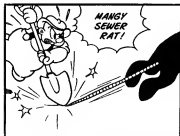


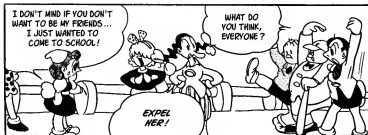


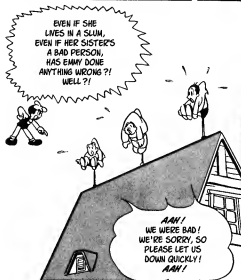
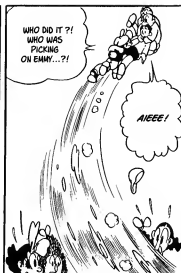


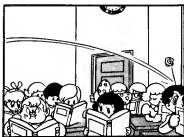
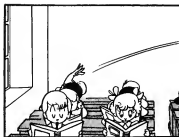












IS IT
A CHEAT
SHEET?



I have discovered
your father's
whereabouts.
Please come to
my house today.
Emmy



MICHI!
SHOW
ME THAT
BALL OF
PAPER!



DRAWING
CARICATURES
OF ME AGAIN,
I'M SURE!

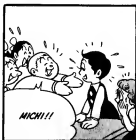


EMMY!
IS THIS
TRUE?!

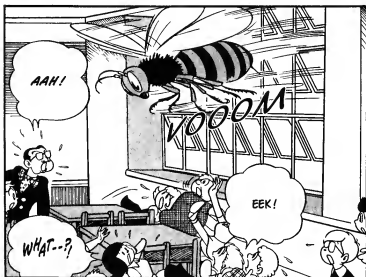


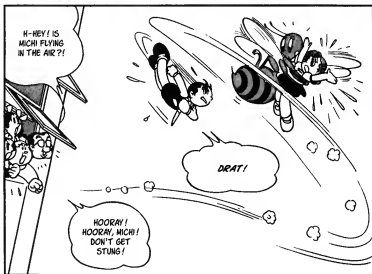
EVERYONE!
IT'S HAPPY
NEWS!

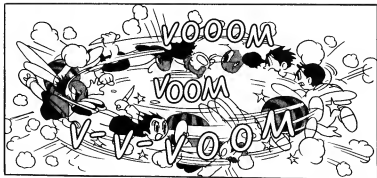
IT SEEMS
MICHI'S FATHER
HAS BEEN
FOUND!

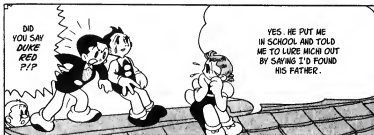


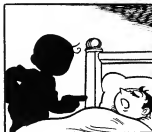
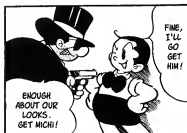
MICHI!!!



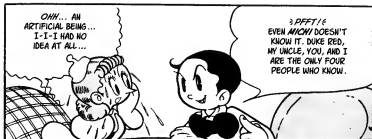


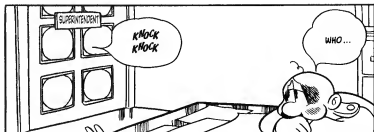




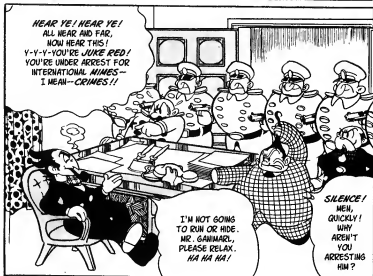


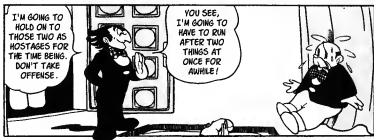
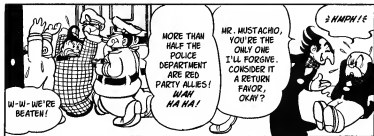




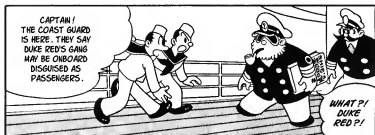


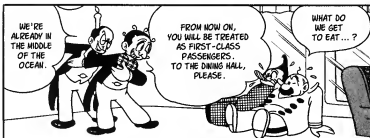
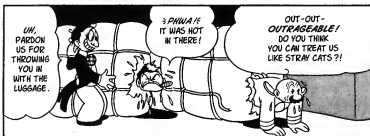
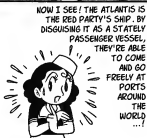


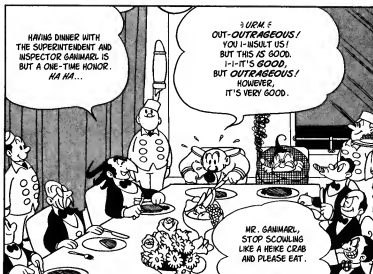












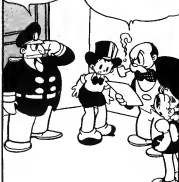
I'LL
INFORM THE
HOMELAND
ABOUT
THIS.



MY NAME IS MACHI. THE ATLANTIS
BEEP! BEEBEE!
IS THE RED PARTY'S SHIP.
THE SHIP HAS DEVIATED FROM ITS
COURSE AND IS NOW IN THE AREA
OF XX PROCEEDING AT A RATE
OF XX KNOTS.

WE JUST
RECEIVED
THIS
DISTRESS
TRANSMISSION.

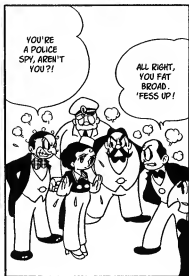
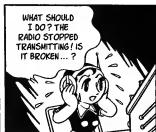
OH!
THIS IS
FROM
MACHI!!

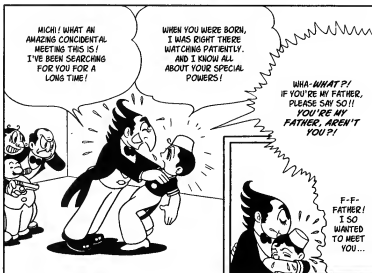
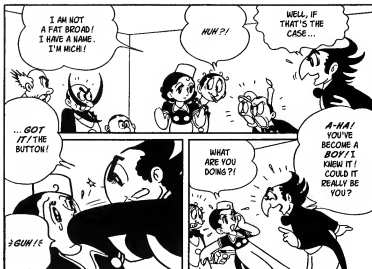


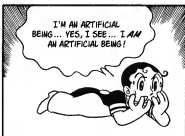
ROGER!
WE'LL CHECK
THE OCEAN
SURFACE IN
THIS AREA.

GOOD
LUCK!



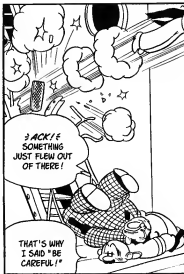
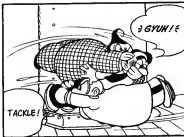
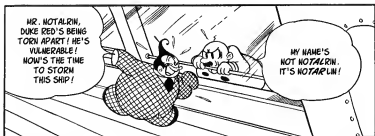


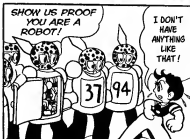
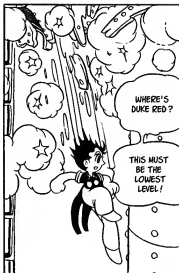


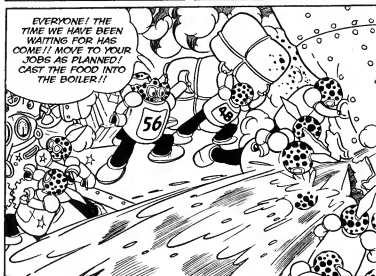


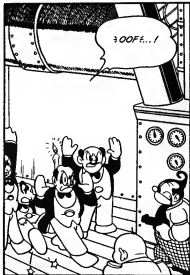
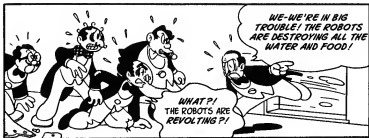


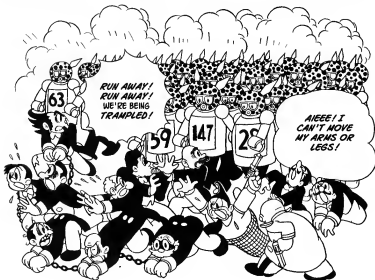


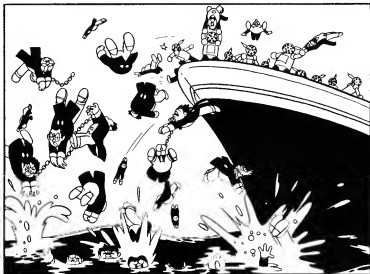


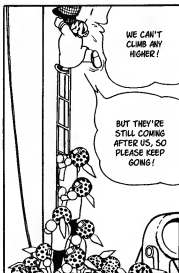


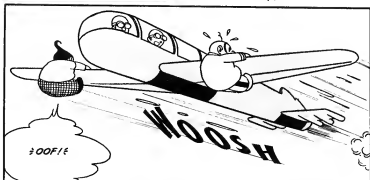
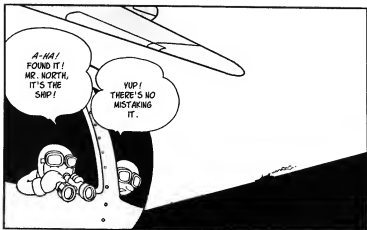


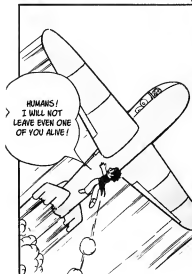
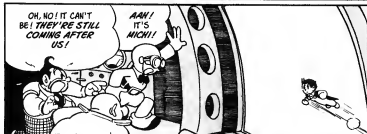


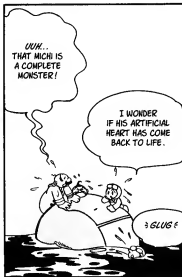
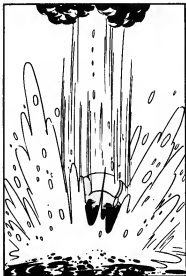
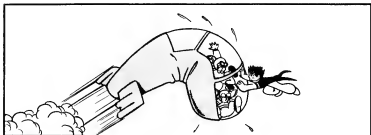


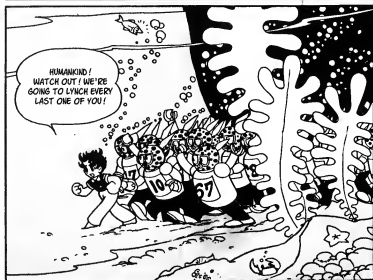
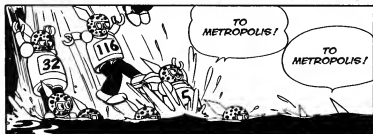


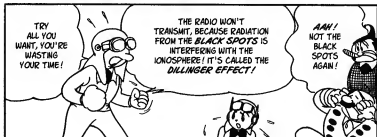
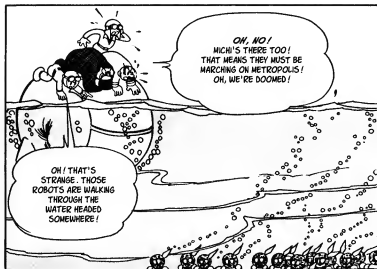


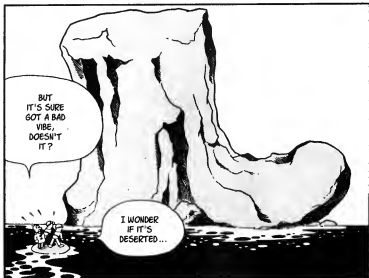


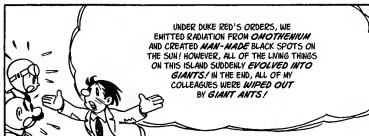


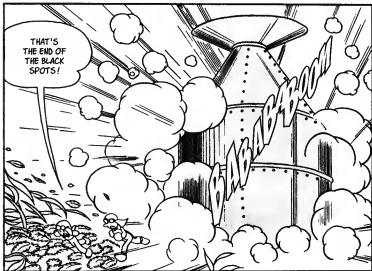


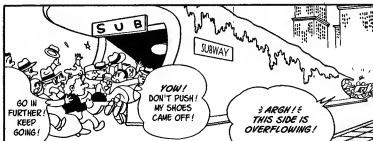
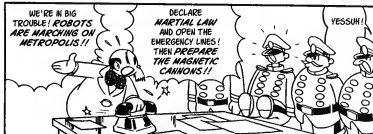
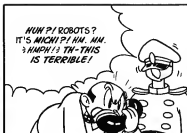


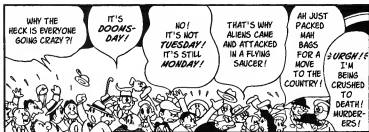












MR. MUSTACHIO!
IT SEEMS THAT A POISON
GAS WHICH DESTROYS HUMAN
BRAINS AND MAKES PEOPLE LIKE
ANIMALS HAS BEEN RELEASED!
THE SITUATION IS BECOMING
TRULY DESPERATE!



IT'S
TORON GAS!
THE ROBOTS
MUST HAVE
RAIDED THE
UNDERGROUND
HEADQUARTERS
AND DESTROYED
THE GAS
CYLINDERS!

LOOK!
SOME OF THE
VICTIMS ARE BEING
BROUGHT IN!



MOO!

EK!
SISTER!
SISTER!



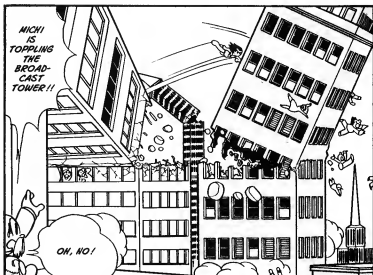
SINCE THIS GROUP
WAS LOOTING FROM
PEOPLE'S HOMES AFTER
THE OTHER CITIZENS
ESCAPED, THEY WERE
THE FIRST TO BE
AFFLICTED BY THE
POISON GAS.

SISTER,
THIS IS YOUR
PUNISHMENT
FOR DOING
WRONG!

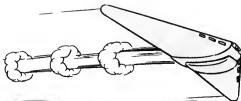


OH! THERE!
THERE!









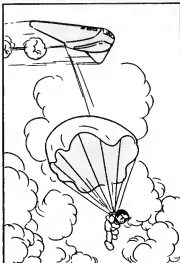
HMM
THE SITUATION
LOOKS GRIM!

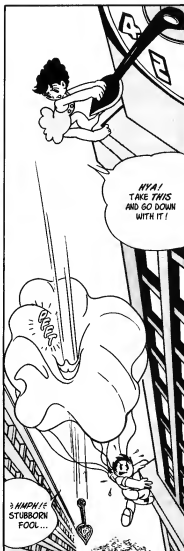
IT LOOKS LIKE
THE ROBOTS ARE
NEARLY BEATEN, BUT
MICHİ'S RUNNING AMOK
ON HIS OWN!

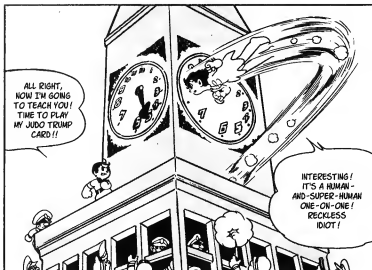


ALL RIGHT!
I'M RESOLVED!
I'LL TRY TO PACIFY
MICHİ SOMEHOW. IF I
CAN MAKE FRIENDS,
THEN I'M SURE
I CAN DO IT.

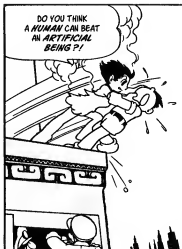
WHA--?!
YOU'LL BE
THROWING
YOUR LIFE
AWAY FOR
NOTHING!!

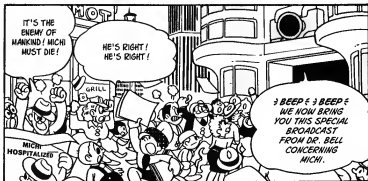




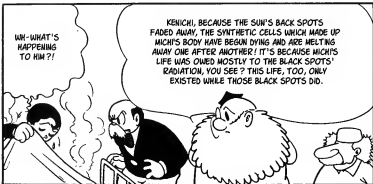
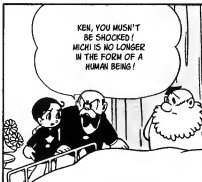
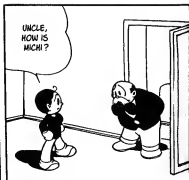
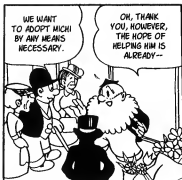


* * MOUNTAIN STORM *

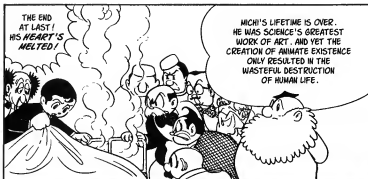












THE END

メトロポリス

AFTERWORD

by **OSAMU TEZUKA**

footnotes by **KUMAR SIVASUBRAMANIAN**



So anyway, after *New Treasure Island*¹ was released in 1947, Kansai became deluged with Osaka-made *Akahon*² manga.

Meanwhile in Tokyo as well, manga books began being published by slow degrees; yet even though both cities had several refined, high-quality products, the overall quality of the *Akahon* manga was far behind.

As a result, Osaka-made *Akahon* manga couldn't remain idle. Ikuei Publishing Company, among others, wanting to escape from publishing the junky kids' books which they had been putting out up until then, decided to start releasing respectable-looking, "real" books, so they proposed that I create an epic, full-length science-fiction novel for them.

The plan was a 160-page, all two-color printing, luxurious hardcover volume with slipcase, the likes of which had never been seen before.

And so, with a production schedule of half a year, I began writing.

However, after reflecting on the grand scheme, I realized that the time frame was a little bit too short. So I used one part of *Ghost*,³ which I had written in my student days, borrowed a throwaway character from an unpublished work called *Old Man's Treasure Island*, and with the theme of a manmade person everything fell into place.

This manmade person was based on the image of the female robot in the famous pre-war German film *Metropolis*. That said, I hadn't seen the movie at the time and I didn't even know what it was about. During the war, in *Kinema Junpou*,⁴ or some other such magazine, there was a single still from the movie of the female robot's birth scene. I remembered it and it just gave me a little hint. I also really liked the sound of the word *metropolis* so I used the same title, but other than that there was no real connection to the movie.

Well, in the beginning I worked on the new story sluggishly, and so it began to get longer and longer. A section about the trip to Longboot Island, the infiltration of the secret base, and the attack of the giant ants, among other scenes, were included. However, after I finished writing I inserted the initial prologue scene and, in doing so, exceeded my 160-page limit and had no choice but to cut many sections. In the various parts about the flower-selling girl and her sister, I enjoyed trying to capture the

mood of the Thenardier's inn scenes from *Les Miserables*, and I had drawn most of the pages, but since they had no relation to the main plot they were cut down to the way you see them now.

The climactic robot rebellion was also longer. Those rejected scenes were there until the very end, so I was extremely sorry to lose them.

When *Metropolis* was released, the response from the public was far greater than I could have ever imagined. I believe it was reprinted several times. I heard that after reading it many students intended to become manga artists, and I also took pride in it being very useful in bringing SF entertainment to the attention of children.

Three of my works – this, *Lost World*, and *Future World* – have been labeled my early SF trilogy by my readers, but the one which had the most metropolitan flavor was *Metropolis*, because at the time I was very drawn to America. The figure of Duke Red standing on the front cover and the big-city night view on the inside cover [of the Japanese edition] were meant to invoke the look of pre-war era Manhattan and Chicago as I imagined them to be, and you can feel the influence of American big-city movies of the time.

Moving on, the two characters Duke Red and Notarlin debuted in this work. Afterwards both of them were nice enough to show up in numerous other works. Also, the leading star, Michi, was a youth who was neither male nor female, and a variation on this theme showed up after *Astro Boy* was born in the form of Sapphire. It could be one of the major character archetypes in my series of heroes and heroines.

It may be possible that the scenes of Michi flying through the air and tossing cars around were influenced by the American comic Superman, which had just entered Japan at that time, but I have no memory of having read Superman back then.⁵ The final scene in which Michi goes up in smoke was suggested by a pre-war creature feature I saw called *The Invisible Ray*.⁶ And as for the section where she dies in the hospital, the final scene of *The Monstrous Fellows of the Country Underground*,⁷ in which the rabbit meets its death in bed, so moved my readers that I decided to steal it from myself. Monkey see, monkey do.



⁵ Tezuka's breakthrough work. It reportedly sold an unprecedented 400,000 copies.

⁶ The predominant form of manga in poverty-stricken Japan circa 1945 to 1955. Literally, "Red Book," so called because of the abundant red ink used on the cover. *Akashon* were usually printed on cheap paper but bound in hardcover.

⁷ 1947.

⁸ Literally, "Cinema Quarterly Report," a magazine still being published in Japan today.

⁹ It is interesting to note here that Tezuka himself does not make the connection between the title of his work and Superman's city of operations.

¹⁰ Universal Pictures, 1936. Directed by Lambert Hillyer. Starring Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi.

¹¹ 1948.

METROPOLIS

メトロポリス

From Osamu Tezuka, creator of *Astro Boy*, comes *Metropolis*, the legendary 1949 graphic novel that inspired the astonishing animated film that floored audiences and critics alike. In a not-so-far-off future a beautiful, artificially created girl – unaware of her non-human background – wanders alone in a world populated by humans and the slave-driven robots who serve them as she searches for the non-existent parents she believes must exist. Tezuka's key theme of the nature of humanity in a technological society is framed in bold relief, as well as his wry allegorical observations of the Cold War that was escalating when he created *Metropolis*. A brilliant work of wit and wisdom – and guest-starring some friends you may recognize from *Astro Boy*! – *Metropolis* is one of graphic fiction's most enduring tales.